

HON. THOS. WHITE'S PRINTING JOBS.

How the Minister of the Interior got Fourteen Prices for Govern- ment Printing.

When **Mr. Thos. White** obtained a seat in Parliament, through the grace of Sir John Macdonald, the publishing firm of **Thomas and Richard White**, who owned the *Montreal Gazette*, formed themselves into a joint stock company in order to evade the provisions of the **Independence of Parliament Act**. According to that Act the *Montreal Gazette* could get no Government jobs without forfeiting **Mr. T. White's right to sit in Parliament**. Hence the change from the simple firm of T. & R. White to "The *Gazette* Printing and Publishing Company."

In the House of Commons, on July 2nd, 1885, **Mr. Somerville** (North Brant) clearly proved from the Public Accounts, published by the Government, that the *Montreal Gazette*, of which **Hon. Thos. White** was, and is, part proprietor, **obtained fourteen prices for the one printing job!** (See Debates, 1885, p. 3,036.) This is how the thing was done:—

The *Gazette* Company was given the printing of a Government pamphlet on British Columbia, of which it published **five editions**. This pamphlet consisted of thirty-two pages, with cover and map. The account was rendered as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| October, 1883..... | 185,000 copies. |
| January, 1884..... | 140,000 " |
| March, 1884..... | 54,000 " |
| April, 1884..... | 56,000 " |
| June, 1884..... | 25,250 " |

Total in eight months.....460,250 copies.

For these editions the Government paid **\$9,211.15**. The composition of these pamphlets was paid for four times, although stereotype plates were used

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in the printing. The composition was paid for at the rate of 35 cents per 1,000 ems, which, multiplied by four, makes the total amount paid at the rate of \$1.40 per thousand, **fourteen times more than the Government contractors' rate**, which is 10 cents per thousand!

There was paid for **press work** for these pamphlets, 11,046 tokens at 30 cents, \$3,313.80, **when only 5,523 tokens were actually printed**, which the contractors would have charged for at 10 cents per token, or \$552.30, **showing an overcharge of no less than \$2,761.50 on press work over and above what the contractors would have charged, or five times the contractors' price!**

For **binding** 450,250 copies, the price charged was \$4,768.02, and the work could be done for \$4 per thousand in any bindery, which would amount to \$1,841, or **an excess paid on binding of \$2,927.02**. The following are the **overcharges** tabulated:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Excess paid on binding..... | \$2,927.02 |
| “ “ composition | 117.30 |
| “ “ press work | 2,761.50 |

\$5,805.82

Thus, on a work which cost, all told, \$9,211.15, there is **an overcharge of \$5,805.82, over and above the ordinary business profit!**

The *Gazette* Company received the following **Government pap** during the same year:—

| | |
|---|------------|
| Pamphlets for Immigration Department..... | \$9,211.15 |
| Printing Geological Report | 2,876.14 |
| “ Reports on fossil plants..... | 126.45 |
| “ Proceedings Royal Society..... | 5,321.29 |
| Advance for work in process..... | 1,500.00 |
| Advertising..... | 737.70 |

\$19,772.73

This is a nice little sum for Mr. Thomas White to turn into **his own printing office in one year!** When the Public Accounts for last year are presented to Parliament, it will be found that **Hon. Thoms White, through the “Gazette Printing Company,” received not less than \$60,000** in that way between 1883 and 1886. And this man, with these facts staring him in Public Accounts, has the **brazen effrontery** to say on the stump that he had nothing to do with printing jobs!

Electors, shall such rascality be permitted? You are called upon to say “yes” or “no!” You can say “no,” by voting for the **Liberal candidates and honest Government.**